

THE AFRICAN COMMUNIST

LIST OF CONTENTS: 1973

No. 52

First Quarter

<i>Editorial Notes: A Call to Action; Our Party Chairman; Vorster</i>	
Loses and Ally and Gains a Relentless Opponent.	5
Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee S.A.C.P.	10
<i>Albert Tshumbe: The Non-Capitalist Path in Africa</i>	40
<i>Alfred Hutchinson: The Rickshaw's New Year</i>	56
<i>Henry Mokgothe: Alfred Hutchinson — a Profile</i>	61
<i>R.E. Press: One Problem at a Time</i>	64
<i>Alan Doyle: Iceland: A Case History of Colonialism</i>	76
<i>J.K. Obatala: Black Americans in Africa</i>	88
For Unity in Action	99
<i>Boris Ponomaryov: The USSR — A Great International Force</i>	105
<i>A.B.: The Struggle in Africa and Asia — A New Phase</i>	120
Book Reviews: <i>Lesotho 1970</i> (B.N. Khaketla); <i>Law, Order and Liberty in South Africa</i> (A.S. Matthews); <i>The International Aspects of the S.A. Indian Question</i> (B. Pachai).	124
Letter to the Editor	133

No. 53

Second Quarter

<i>Editorial Notes: Southern Africa on the March; Strike Wave in South Africa; Atrocities in Mozambique; Border War in Rhodesia</i>	5
<i>Alex La Guma: Vietnam — A People's Victory</i>	29
We Pay Undying Tribute Letter to Vietnamese People from the National Chairman of the S.A.C.P.	36
<i>Amilcar Cabral: Outstanding Leader of African Liberation Movement</i>	38
Cabral's Monument will be a Free Africa — Statement by S.A.C.P.	44
<i>E.R. Braverman: African Workers Advance</i>	46
<i>E.R. Matajo: World Trade Union Conference Against Apartheid</i>	63
<i>Joyce Malindi: Uganda's 'Asian Problem' Created by Imperialists</i>	70
<i>J.A. Juma: Development of the Classes in Independent India</i>	84
<i>J. Girodot: UN Shilly-Shallying on Namibia</i>	91
<i>A. Langa: Africa Notes and Comments</i>	96
Book Reviews: <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i> (Walter Rodney); <i>The South African Connection</i> (Ruth First, Jonathan Steele and Christabel Gurney); <i>Labour in the South African Gold Mines 1911-1969</i> (Francis Wilson); <i>The Roots of Segregation — Native Policy in Natal (1845-1910)</i> (David Welsh); <i>Outline History of the Communist International</i> (Institute of Marxism Leninism); <i>Speeches at Congresses of the Communist International by V.I. Lenin</i>	103
Letters to the Editor	122

we are told is of the oppression of an Afrikaner platteland community, of Afrikaner despair, of the hopes, dreams and struggles of Afrikaners to rid themselves of the despotic yoke and regain their freedom.

An Afrikaner Nationalist might well look on this book as a sort of Afrikaans 1984. He would think back to the Great Trek, Slagters Nek, the Boer War. He would vow never to let all that happen again, and he would fight to preserve Afrikaner domination to the very end. Because he would never see himself in the skin of a Black man, he would not be persuaded by Schoeman that he was doing an injury to others. He would only be further convinced that there is no alternative to the present policies of the Nationalist Government if he wants to avoid being injured himself.

Only those Whites who can accept Blacks as equals will get Shoe-man's message (if that is his message), and they are already converted. The White racist majority who regard Blacks as sub-human are probably immune, incapable of seeing the connection between the oppression of the Afrikaner which is depicted in the book and the oppression of the Blacks which surrounds them in real life.

P.M.

LABOUR MONTHLY

Founded 1921

Editor: R. Palme Dutt

A Marxist commentary on political events in the cause of national liberation and socialism.

20 pence monthly — £1.20 half-yearly subscription — £2.40 yearly.

(Students: £2.20 yearly — £1.10 half-yearly.)

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**DEPARTMENT AC
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No. 54

Third Quarter

<i>Editorial Notes: Decade of Detention and Death; United Party Sells the Past; Black Agents of Capitalism</i>	5
A Cable From Hanoi	15
<i>Molefe Mini: Class Struggle and African Unity – 10 Years of the OAU</i>	16
<i>Blanqui Teixeira: The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance and its Meaning for Africa</i>	56
<i>Yatsho Landoda: Govan Mbeki – A Real People's Leader</i>	69
<i>Emile Touma: Deteriorating Israeli Position in Africa</i>	75
<i>Ebrahim Abdel Halim: Egypt – Crisis of the Revolution</i>	82
<i>Are White Students a Revolutionary Force?</i>	89
<i>Ivan Potekhin: A Gréat Africanist</i>	95
Book Reviews: <i>Migrant Labour in South Africa</i> (Francis Wilson)	
<i>Africa on the New Road</i> (Pyotr Manchkhia); <i>Urban Revolt in South Africa 1960-64</i> (Edward Feit); <i>Sudafrica vor der Revolution</i> (Franz J.T. Lee); <i>In the Eye of the Storm: Angola's People</i> (Basil Davidson); <i>Racism and Human Survival: Lessons of Nazi Germany for Today's World</i> (Claude Lightfoot); <i>In the Fog of the Seasons' End</i> (Alex La Guma)	100

No. 55

Fourth Quarter

<i>Editorial Notes: Socialism Proves its Superiority; Gold, Profits and Job Reservation; Africans Hardest Hit by Inflation; Militant Blacks Fight Back; The Truth About Mozambique; World Marxist Review; Freedom Radio</i>	5
Support South Africa's Militant Black Workers: Statement by Central Committee	19
<i>Joe Slovo: Frelimo Faces the Future</i>	23
A Great Comrade Passes: The Death of Walter Ulbricht	54
<i>R.E. Matajo: A New Weapon to Smash Trade Union Apartheid</i>	57
<i>ANC Kumalo: Red Our Colour – A Poem</i>	69
<i>Henri Onan: African Culture and Ideology</i>	71
<i>Toussaint: Africa Notes and Comments</i>	83
<i>Basha Ahmed Abdi: Scientific Socialism and the Somali Revolution</i>	99
Book Reviews: <i>Justice in South Africa</i> (Albie Sachs); <i>No Neutral Ground</i> (Joel Carlson); <i>The Boer War Diary of Sol T. Plaattje – An African at Mafeking</i> (edited by John L. Comaroff); <i>From Protest to Challenge: A Documentary History of African Politics in South Africa 1882-1964</i> (edited by Thomas Karis and Gwendoline Carter); <i>A Simple Lust</i> (poems by Denis Brutus); <i>The Marabi Dance</i> (Modikwe Dikobe); <i>Robben Island</i> (D.M. Zwelonke); <i>Ambrose Reeves</i> (John S. Peart-Binns); <i>A Life for Africa</i> (Naomi Mitchison)	109
Letters to the Editor	123



